

5 What is claimed as new and desired to be protected by Letter Patent is set forth in the
appended claims.

I claim:

1. A bar code reader initiated paging method, comprising:

 reading a bar code symbol with a bar code reader having an internally stored user

10 identification;

 processing the data from the bar code symbol and the user identification into a

message, and transmitting the message over a wireless communication link connected to a
network;

 receiving the message at a distribution node on a network;

 processing the symbol data and the user identification information at the
distribution node to determine the message destination station; and

 transmitting an alert to the destination station over a radio frequency paging
network.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the distribution node on the network is an Internet
website.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the alert is in the form of a radio paging signal including
the data from the bar code symbol.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the alert includes information on the location of the bar
code reader.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the distribution node includes a database containing paging address information.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the node on the network is an access point in a wireless
10 local area network.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the alert is in the form of a HTML script.

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising providing access to the alert network page
15 through a URL containing the appropriate query strings necessary to present the appropriate page to the destination station.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the alert signal identifies the user to the destination
20 station.

10. A method of messaging in a virtual network of at least two spatially separate individual
wireless local area network (WLANs) using a bar code in a mobile unit operative in one of the
WLANs, reader comprising:

25 establishing a web server at an Internet node;
connecting an access point in each of said WLANs to said Internet node;
reading a bar code symbol on a first mobile unit in a first WLAN;

5 decoding the bar code symbol and, encoding a message with the decoded data into a
packet with a destination address corresponding to the Internet node;

 transferring the packetized message to the web server at the Internet node;

 at the web server, determining if the second mobile unit is active on the network at the
time the packetized textual message is received at the web server, and the WLAN in which the
10 second mobile unit is active; and

 if the second mobile unit is active, transmitting an alert from the web server to the second
mobile unit that a message destined for such unit is available from the web server.

11. An article comprising a computer-readable medium that stores computer-executable
instructions for configuring a mobile computer, comprising;

 responding to the reading of a bar code symbol by a reader associated with the mobile
computer by generating asynchronous notification action from the mobile computer to a server;

20 in response to an asynchronous notification action, transmitting an alert from the server to
a client containing a message to indicate availability of HTML pages containing data read from
the symbol; and

 provide access to the HTML page via a URL containing the appropriate query strings
25 necessary to present the appropriate HTML page to the client.

12. A client based bar code reading initiated message delivery method, comprising:

